

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: IOWA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC., d/b/a IOWA TELECOM	DOCKET NO. RPU-02-4
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ORDER EXTENDING SCHEDULE

(Issued October 22, 2002)

On May 24, 2002, Iowa Telecommunications Services, Inc., d/b/a Iowa Telecom (Iowa Telecom), filed with the Utilities Board (Board) proposed increases in its prices for basic monthly services, both residential and business, in all three of its service territories. In the cover letter accompanying the filing, Iowa Telecom states the filing was made pursuant to Senate File 429, Section 3, of the most recent legislative session, to be codified as Iowa Code § 476.97(11)"h," which provides as follows:

h. The board may review a local exchange carrier's operation under this subsection, with notice and an opportunity for hearing, after four years of the carrier's election to be price-regulated. The local exchange carrier, consumer advocate, or any person may propose, and the board may approve, any reasonable modifications to the price-regulation requirements in this subsection as a result of the specific carrier review, with the following limitations:

(1) Such modifications shall not require a reduction in the rates for any basic communications service or a return to rate-base, rate-of-return regulation.

(2) Such proposals for modifications under this paragraph "h" are limited to no more than one every three years.

The board shall approve, or approve subject to modification, a proposal for modification within one hundred eighty days of filing, but for good cause may grant one extension of sixty days, not to exceed a total of two hundred forty days. Reasonable modifications may include increases without offsetting decreases in any rate for basic and nonbasic communications service of the carrier. In reviewing the carrier's proposal, the board shall consider, but not be limited to, potential rate consolidations, the impact of competition or other external factors since election of price regulation, the impact of the proposal on the carrier's ability to attract capital, and the impact of the proposal on the ability of the carrier to deploy advanced telecommunications services.

Pursuant to this provision, the Board is required to act on Iowa Telecom's proposals by November 20, 2002. However, the Board now finds that good cause exists to extend that deadline as permitted by the statute. This finding is based on the complexity of the issues presented by the parties and on the unusual volume of major cases currently pending before the Board.¹

Senate File 429 only allows the Board to adjust the schedule by "one extension of sixty days," so the Board will order an extension of that amount of time. However, the Board anticipates issuing its decision well before the end of the 60-day extension.

¹ For example, six major rate review proceedings are currently pending before the Board, along with a proceeding under 47 U.S.C. § 271. Many of these proceedings involve some of the same Board resources as this docket.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

Pursuant to Senate File 429, Section 3, and based upon good cause as described in this order, the Board extends the decision deadline in this docket by 60 days, to January 20, 2003.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 22nd day of October, 2002.